REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are pending. It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact Samuel W. Ntiros, Reg. No. 39,318 at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

FLESHNER & KIM, LLP

Rene A. Vazquez

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Date: January 20, 2004

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610